



Brownfields — Workforce Development

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA's Brownfields Initiative strategies include funding pilot programs and other research efforts, clarifying liability issues, entering into partnerships, conducting outreach activities, developing job training programs, and addressing environmental justice concerns.

OVERVIEW

EPA, in partnership with local job training organizations and community colleges, continues to develop long-term plans for fostering workforce development in brownfields communities. EPA believes that workforce development and job training are the critical links between environmental cleanup and safe and sustainable community redevelopment. These efforts help to guarantee that brownfields cleanup and redevelopment have the trained workforce needed to revitalize contaminated properties, and that local community members have an opportunity to compete in the economic mainstream.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

EPA is committed to building partnerships with States and cities, and among Federal agencies to meet workforce development and job training objectives. EPA recognizes the need to promote environmental workforce training programs in brownfields communities throughout the country. In particular, efforts are focused on the creation of job opportunities in brownfields neighborhoods.

Department of Labor

EPA and the Department of Labor (DOL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish policies and procedures in support of the Brownfields Initiative. DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and EPA are supporting the brownfields pilots through their respective national and

regional office staffs. In addition, ETA is providing information and technical assistance to each State Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Liaison and will also provide information to community-based JTPA programs. This EPA/DOL effort focuses on job training and employment opportunities for local youths and adults related to the Brownfields Initiative.

Department of Health and Human Services

EPA is working with both the Health and Human Services (HHS) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and Office of Community Service to leverage job training opportunities for residents of brownfields pilot communities. EPA and NIEHS are working to ensure that Minority Youth Worker Training Program grants, established to facilitate the development of minority youth worker training programs, tie closely to ongoing activities in brownfields pilot cities. EPA and the Office of Community Service are collaborating on issues related to the training, employment, and support services for individuals living in brownfields pilot communities.

Department of Education

EPA and the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education and School-to-Work programs are working to identify outreach mechanisms for local public schools regarding the Brownfields Initiative.

JOB DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING INITIATIVES

EPA is funding and participating in job training and education efforts linked to the Brownfields Initiative.

HMTRI

EPA is working with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), based in the Eastern Iowa Community College District, to expand environmental training and curriculum development at community colleges located near brownfields pilots. HMTRI, in conjunction with pilot cities, hosts workshops to assist community colleges from brownfields communities in developing environmental job training programs. HMTRI also provides follow-up technical assistance to help “tailor” programs to specific community labor market needs. Over 60 community colleges have benefited from HMTRI training. To find out more information on HMTRI, call (319) 344-0358 or refer to HMTRI’s homepage:

<http://www.hmtri.org.blest>

Rio Hondo College

EPA, in a partnership with the Rio Hondo Community College District, located in Whittier, CA, established an environmental education and training center to provide comprehensive technician-level training with an emphasis on Brownfields and Superfund issues. The college is located adjacent to one of Los Angeles County’s state-of-the-art landfill sites. As part of its environmental apprenticeship program, and in collaboration with local city managers, the college offers a unique opportunity for hands-on environmental job training at the landfill. The project acts to further link workforce development and local planning processes.

Cuyahoga Community College

EPA and the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), located in Cleveland, OH, established a workforce development training program. The college has conducted community outreach activities to recruit students from socio-economically disadvantaged communities to provide environmental information to their neighborhoods. This effort is also linked to job training programs, such as Minority Worker Training Program pilot, funded through the National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS).

OPED

In cooperation with EPA, the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut’s Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) is working with Housatonic Community College, Sacred Heart University, and labor organizations to develop quality environmental education and training programs to train the local workforce. OPED is actively building partnerships to train the local workforce. As part of this effort, an “Environmental Education and Job Training Summit” was held in June 1995 to share information on brownfields and provide a forum for community, government, business, and labor organization representatives to plan collaborative projects.

EPA and its partners are continuing efforts to develop training and apprenticeship programs to ensure that the short- and long-term economic benefits of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment are shared by the local community.

CONTACT

Myra Blakely
U.S. EPA
(202) 260-4527
blakely.myra@epamail.epa.gov